Rate for Advertisements.—One yen per inch per week, four yen per inch per month. Special rates allowed for longer periods. All advertisements in the *Japan Times*, excepting those for short periods, will appear in the weekly edition free of charge.

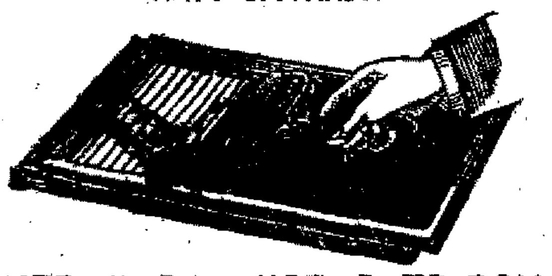
Japan Times.

Subscription.—One yen per month, and ten yen per annum. Postage free within Japanese postal limits. A reduction of 20 per cent. is allowed to educational institutions, students, and all persons engaged in educational or religious work.

No. 1. TOKYO, MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1897. Price 5 Sen.

THE HORII TYPEWRITER.

(SIMPLEX PRINTER.)
Patent 1895.
HONORABLY ADOPTED BY OUR ARMY AND NAVY OFFICIALS.



OVER 50,000 USERS TO-DAY.
CHEAPEST, STRONGEST, AND EASIEST.
Serves for Autographic or Typewritten Work.
AGENTS WANTED.
WRITE FOR CIRCULAR TO
HORII & Co.,
No. 3, Kajicho, Kanda, Tokyo.
March 22nd, 1897.

BRETT & CO.'S KOLA TONIC WINE.

For Exhaustion,
Fatigue,
Sleeplessness.
A General Tonic,
Improves the Appetite.

KOLA is a powerful nerve stimulant, and used for fatigue of mind and body. It assists digestion and is far superior in its action to Coca.

PREPARED ONLY BY
BRETT & CO., LIMITED,
60, YOKOHAMA.
March 22nd, 1897.

The Foundation Stone of all.

"[illegible] of Surplus Held over all liabilities" is the legend on the streamer of the EQUITABLE LIFE. That means strength in reserve—and strength is the one great thing that the policy-holder looks for in the company which assures him.

The great question with the holder of a life contract is, "What will the ability of my company be when this contract becomes a claim, and what preparation is the company making to make that contract good beyond a peradventure?" There are plenty of good things in good life assurance, but the foundation stone of all is security; and while the man or the company who has dollar for dollar of valuable assets to meet all liabilities is solvent, the man who has tens of thousands of dollars and the company that has tens of millions of dollars over and above all liabilities are safer to trust with the contingencies of a remote and unknown future than those who have honestly, but merely, provided dollar for dollar.

For particulars or to effect assurances, apply to

J. T. HAMILTON,
General Manager for the East
No. 6, The Bund, Shanghai.

F. KIENE,
District Manager for Japan,
No. 10, The Bund, Yokohama.

March 22nd, 1897.

K. TAMAMURA,

THE LEADING PHOTOGRAPHER OF JAPAN,
No. 2, BENTEN-DORI.

IS THE PLACE FOR TOURISTS TO GET

The Finest Collection of Views,
THE FINEST COLORED VIEWS,
THE FINEST PHOTOGRAPHS
IN NATIVE COSTUME,
THE LARGEST COLLECTION,
THE LARGEST STUDIO,
THE BEST ARTISTS;
AND, BETTER THAN ALL,

The Lowest Prices.

My views are colored by the best Artists and include every point of interest all over Japan. I would advise tourists to bear this in mind, for I can supply them with the best photographs of any place in Japan at the lowest price, and will guarantee they will not fade. Tourists who desire to inspect my large collection at their leisure can have my sample books sent to their hotel.

Lacquer Covered Albums,
Cherry Lacquer Frames,
IN GREAT VARIETY.

The celebrated Artist, S. Shosaku (known as the "long-haired Artist"), is in my employ.

An inspection of my work is respectfully solicited.

K. TAMAMURA,
No. 2, Benten-dori, Yokohama.
March 22nd, 1897.

TRADE MARK.

OSAKA CRUCIBLE MANUFACTURING COMPANY

(Osaka Rutsubo Seizo Kaisha),
No. 9, ITCHOME, SAIWAI-CHO DORI, NISHIKU, OSAKA.

President - - - - H. TAMATE.

BLACK-LEAD CRUCIBLES USED FOR MELTING ALL KINDS OF METALS AND ORES.

THE above-mentioned Company beg to inform the public that the Black-lead Crucibles manufactured by them are used in the Imperial Mint, in the factories under the Departments of War, of the Navy, and of the Imperial Household, and a large number of private manufactories, and that we are making arrangements to export our manufactures on a large scale to foreign countries.

QUALITY FIRST RATE.....
Prizes awarded at the World's Columbian Exposition.
The second Merit at the Third and Fourth Domestic Exhibitions.
Orders, however small, shall receive our best attention.

March 22nd, 1897.

"NIWO"

Is a certain cure for Constipation, Gout, Dyspepsia, Distress after Meals, and Unhealthy Complexion.

For Constipation—Take a third of a bottle warm half an hour before rising.
For Gout—Take a tumbler full half an hour before meals and on retiring.
For Distress after Meals—Take from half to a tumbler full.
For an Unhealthy Complexion—Take a tumbler full on retiring and rising.

"NIWO,"

A NATURAL MEDICINAL WATER. . . . .

Bottled at the Springs of Takaradzuka, near Kobe, Japan.

This water, besides being aperient, contains a large proportion of Ferruginous Salts, which property commends its use before any other mineral laxative.

Sole Proprietor,
J. CLIFFORD WILKINSON,
KOBE, JAPAN.

"TANSAN"

IS THE KING OF MINERAL WATERS. . . .

LADIES who value their health should drink it.
CHILDREN will feel the beneficial effect of it.
MEN who use it testify to its excellence.
ALL should drink it.

"TANSAN,"

A NATURAL MINERAL WATER. . . .

[illegible] Takaradzuka, near Kobe, Japan.

Mixed with either Wines, Spirits, Stout, Milk, or taken by itself, it has no equal as a stimulant, and is a certain cure for Lassitude and Debility.

Sole Proprietor,
J. CLIFFORD WILKINSON,
KOBE, JAPAN.

Agents for "Niwo" and "Tansan."

YOKOHAMA	Langfeldt & Co., Ltd.
"	Macondray Bros. & Lockard.
"	Emanuel & Co.
KOBE	J. Clifford Wilkinson.
"	H. Julien.
NAGASAKI	Powers & Co.
SHANGHAI	Gande, Price & Co.
HONGKONG	Fletcher & Co.
"	Carmichael & Co., Ltd.
SAIGON	Denis Frères.
JAVA	The Batavia Trading Co., Ltd.
VANCOUVER	Baker, Crawford & Co.
ENGLAND	The Pure French Wine Co., Norfolk Street, Strand, London.

March 22nd, 1897.

TRADE MARK

THE TOKYO TSUKIJI TYPE FOUNDRY

No. 17, Tsukiji Nichome, Tokyo, Japan.

TYPE-FOUNDERS,
STEREOTYPERS, ELECTROTYPERS,
PRINTERS AND LITHOGRAPHERS,
&c., &c., &c.

The best and the cheapest.

Send for Specimens and Prices.
ESTIMATES SUPPLIED.

The most complete establishment of its kind in the East.

March 22nd, 1897. 1 w.

MURAI & BROS.

The "Virgin" Cigarettes.

Manufactured at the Branch Office in the U.S.A. from the finest Virginia Leaf.

FRAGRANT AND SWEET.

A NEW CARGO JUST ARRIVED.

Head Office:
MURAI & BROTHERS, Kyoto, Japan.
Branch Offices:
Tokyo: No. 10, Sanchome, Muromachi, Nihonbashi ku.
Osaka: No. 15, Nichome, Hiramachi, Higashi-ku.
Kyoto: No. 3, Nichome, Hashishigashi, Gojo, Shimogyo-ku.
China: No. 2, Pekin Road, Shanghai.
America: Winston, North Carolina.

March 22nd, 1897.

THE

Hokkaido Tanko Tetsudo Kabushiki Kwaisha,

(HOKKAIDO COAL MINE AND RAILWAY Co.)

Capital . . . . **12,000,000 Yen.**
Railways . . . . **210 Miles.**

Coal Mines:			Production for 1896.
Yubari Mine			270,000 Tons.
Kami Utashinai Mine	(Sorachi)		150,000 Tons.
Shimo "	"	(Kamoi)	50,000 Tons.
Poronai	"		150,000 Tons.
Ikushunbetsu	"		150,000 Tons.

The coals in the north-eastern part of Japan are principally produced from our mines.

The various kinds of coal produced from our mines are not, of course, all equally good for the same purpose, some are suitable for steamers and some for railway locomotives; others are good for smelting iron or for the production of gas, etc. Any of these varieties will be supplied to customers on demand.

Our Yubari and Sorachi coals are considered best for steamship use.

The Nippon Yusen Kwaisha (Japan Mail Steamship Co.), The Messageries Maritimes Co., and the Peninsular & Oriental S. N. Co., are continually using all these kinds of coals, under special contract.

Our Poronai, Yubari, and Ikushunbetsu coals are all especially suitable for Railway Locomotives, and are constantly used by the Imperial Japanese Government Railways and the Nippon Tetsudo Kwaisha, under special contract.

Our company has its main office in Sapporo; and branches in Otaru, Mororan, Yokohama, and Tokyo; also agents in Singapore and Hongkong.

Our company is supplying bunker coals to the foreign steamers, and a large amount is annually exported directly by our own and our chartered steamers.

Our coals have each different fixed prices, and our methods differ widely from those of coal dealers who practice deception in weight, quality, and price.

If any one desires to try our coals please address as under:—

Hokkaido Tanko Tetsudo Kabushiki Kwaisha,
Minami Iidamachi, Kyobashi-ku, Tokyo.
Itchome Onoyecho, Yokohama.

K. INOUYE, *Director.*

Telegraphic address: "Tanko Tokyo."

March 22nd, 1897.

19, Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.
20th May, 1896.

The Pure French Wine Company,

Strand, London.

GENTLEMEN,—I cannot refrain from sending you an unsolicited testimonial to the excel[illegible]

I have tried most of the Mineral Waters in existence and find yours most resembles "APOLLINARIS," but in piquancy and pleasantness of flavour either with spirits or by itself is infinitely superior and it also appears to have the (now) important feature of being very much cheaper. I took a bottle every morning before breakfast during the middle of last summer, and felt that I derived great benefit therefrom. I should also like to say a word in favor of your NEW MEDICINAL WATER, "**NIWO,**" samples of which have only recently reached me. I tried half a tumbler every morning after my bath and found the results most beneficial. It seemed to increase the activity of my brain and made me more energetic and cheerful.

The flavour is not unpleasant, though I should advise your clients not to take it for more than a week at a time, unless they should feel the necessity on the morning after a supper party or big dinner.

I should be obliged by your sending me another case of "**TANSAN**" and "**NIWO,**" for which I enclose cheque.

With Compliments,
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) ARTHUR SOMMERVILLE.

LANGFELDT & CO.,

Agents for—
"TANSAN" & "NIWO."

March 22nd, 1897.

CHAMPAGNES.

THEOPHILE RHOEDERER & CO.
MAISON FONDÉE EN 1864.
REIMS.

EXTRA RESERVE CUVEE (English Taste.) CRISTAL CHAMPAGNE.
CARTE BLANCHE ENGLAND (English Taste.) GLADIATEUR.
CARTE BLANCHE doux. CARTE NOIRE.
CARTE NOIRE. EXTRA CUVEE.
CREMANT D'AY.

IN QUARTS AND PINTS, FROM $23 TO $47 PER CASE.

OPPENHEIMER FRÈRES,
Sole Agents for Japan.
Yokohama, Nos. 13 and 14. - - - Kobe, No. 28.

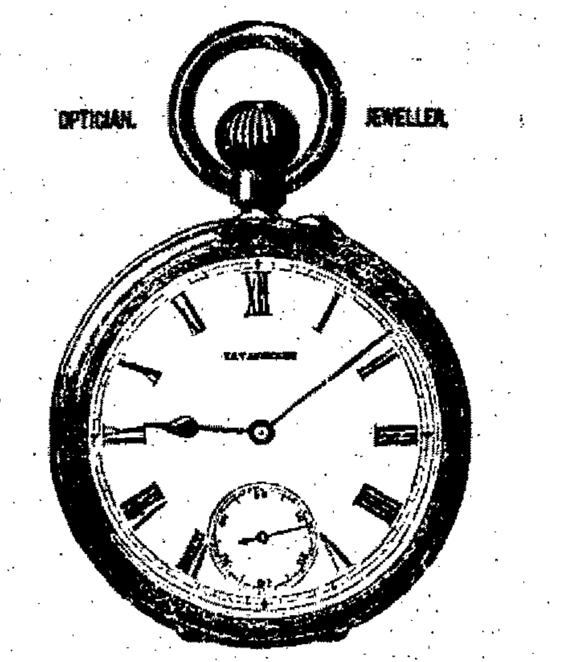
Retail:—PEYRE FRERES, No. 85, Yokohama.
" EMANUEL & Co., No. 164, Yokohama.
March 22nd, 1897.

TACHIKAWA & CO.,

KOBE, JAPAN.

GENERAL AGENTS,
SHIPPING. INSURANCE. ETC.

March 22nd, 1897.



SWISS WATCH DEPOT.

Geo. Schneider,
80, Main Street, Yokohama.
CLOCKS, WATCHES, AND . . .
. . . JEWELLERY REPAIRED.
March 22nd, 1897.

THE
JAPAN BREWERY CO.,
LIMITED.

THE FAMOUS NEW YEAR
BOCK BEER
IS NOW READY.

Orders may be sent to the Brewery, 123. Bluff, Yokohama.

JAMES STEWART,
Secretary.
Telephone Number 337.
March 22nd, 1897.

KUHN & KOMOR, FINE ART CURIOS, TRADE MARK

PLEASE NOTICE!

That our Yokohama Branch is ONLY at No. 37 Water Street (opposite the Grand Hotel.)

Our **Palace of Art** is one of the most interesting sights of Yokohama.

KUHN & KOMOR,
Only at 37, Water Street, Yokohama.
March 22nd, 1897.

Phœnix Saw Mills

SASH, DOOR AND BOX FACTORY.

Latest improved Machinery for turning out work at shortest notice. Also a patent Kiln Drier in use for turning out seasoned wood.

Estimates given for all kinds of work, lowest prices.

Works: Nakamura.
Office: Yokohama, 41.

E. KILDOYLE.

Marble Works for turning out Mantels, Tiling, Stones &c., Next Door.

March 22nd, 1897.

FOR PIANOS...
AND

... MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS!
ALSO
... MUSIC

Of the best, go to.....
S. MOUTRIE & CO.,
61, Main Street, Yokohama.
March 22nd, 1897.

ACCIDENT....,

All desirous of guarding against the pecuniary loss and expenses arising from accident to the person, should apply to the

Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited.

F. KIENE,
No. 10, Bund, Yokohama.
J. T. HAMILTON,
Manager for the East,
No. 6, Bund, Shanghai.

March 22nd, 1897.

LATEST SHIPPING.

ARRIVED AT YOKOHAMA.

March 20th.

Toyohashi Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,870, Horton, from Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Jinsen Maru, Japanese steamer, 1,411, Nakajima, from Kobe, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Prinzess Wilhelm, German cruiser, 4,400, Captain Holtzendorf, from Hongkong.
Tsuruga Maru, Japanese steamer, 742, K. Fuki, from Yokkaichi, General.—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.

March 21st.

Matsuyama Maru, Japanese steamer 1,959.

DEPARTED FROM YOKOHAMA.

Dardanus, British steamer, 1,350, Gregory, for London via ports, General.—Butterfield & Swire.
Fuyo Maru, Japanese steamer, 789, Tornoe, for Nagasaki, ballast.—Mitsu Bishi Co.
Keelung, Japanese steamer, 1,672, A. J. Wilds, for Kobe.—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.
Kōtono Maru, Japanese steamer, 779, K. Matsumoto, for—Tokyo Shosen Gakko.

March 21st.

Ernest Simmons, French steamer, 2,260, De Maubeuge, for Europe, via Kobe and Shanghai, Mails and General.—M. M. Co.

PASSENGERS DEPARTED FROM YOKOHAMA.

March 21st.

Per Japanese steamer *Kobe Maru,* from Kobe:—Lieutenant Seiren Takano, Lieutenant Akira Uyeno, Commander Chikakata Tamari, Commander L. H. Petersen, Mr. S. Takekasa, Mr. John Dill Ross, Mr. Leigh Hunt, and Mr. Case in cabin; Mrs. Karolin Irjesniewsky, Miss M. Matsumoto, Mr. M. Sugiyama, and Mr. E. Morton in 2nd class; 72 in steerage.

Per steamship *Ernest Simmons,* for Europe, via Shanghai:—Mrs. Syme Thomson, Mrs. J. Mason and child, Capt. Million, Mr. Katasuka, Mr. K. H. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Evans, Messrs. T. A. Singleton, D. Deans, G. Jackson, Richd. Tienes, Hing Chow, Kain Wan, John Heele, T. Takasugi, T. Fukuda, A. Okada and L. H. Peterson.

VESSELS IN HARBOUR.

Agapanthus, Brit. str., 1,860, R J. C. Todd, from Hongkong, via Kobe, March 15—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Astracana, Brit. ship, 1,587, Griffiths, from Nagasaki, March 16—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
Benmohr, Brit. str., 2,000, Le Boutiller, from New York, March 14—Cornes & Co.
Chingtu, Brit. str., 1,769, Williams, from Hongkong, Jan. 27—Butterfield and Swire.
Diana, Am. sch., 72, Petersen, from hunting cruise, Seal skins, Oct. 6—Captain.
Ed. O'Brien, Am. ship, 2,157, Oliver, from New York, March 13—Standard Oil Co.
Iranian, Brit. ship, 2,797, Watt, from New York, Feb. 28—Standard Oil Co.
Keelung, Jap. str., 1,692, A. J. Wilds, from London, via ports, March 12—Mitsu Bussan Kaisha.
Kobe Maru, Jap. str., 1,645, R. Swain, March 19—Nippon Yusen Kaisha.
Maraval, Brit. ship, 1,257, Hill, March 7—J. W. Hall.
Nestor, Brit. str., 2,414, Asquith, from Liverpool via ports, Feb. 24—Butterfield & Swire.
Pointer, sch., 27, Snow, hunting cruise. Oct. 8—Captain.
Samaritan, Brit. str., 1,997, J. Dexter, from Middlesbro, Feb. 27—Sale & Co.
Silver Fleece, Am. sch., 85, Thomson, from Guam, Feb. 24—J. Kernan.
St. Andrews, Nor. str., 2,009, Triwold, from Batoum, via Kobe, March 12—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
St. Katherine, Am. barque, 1,153, Frazier, from Port Blakely, Feb. 21—J. Nakamura.
St. Lawrence, Am. schr., 39, Calder, from Seattle, March 4—Captain.
W. Law, Brit. str., 1,631, Abbott, from Middlesbro, March 1—Order.

MAIL STEAMERS.

THE NEXT MAIL IS DUE.

From	per	On
America	P. M. Co.	Tues., Mar. 23rd. ⸹
Hongkong	C. P. R. Co.	Thurs., Mar. 25th

THE NEXT MAIL LEAVES.

For	per	On
America	O. & O. Co.	Wed., Mar. 24th.
Canada, &c.	C. P. R. Co.	Fri., Mar. 26th.
For Portland	O. R. & N. Co.	Satur., April 3rd.

† *Doric* left San Francisco on February.
⸹ *China* left San Francisco 23rd, via Honolulu on March 4th.

EXCHANGE.

YOKOHAMA, March 20th, 1897.

Sterling—T. T.	$2/0\frac{3}{8}$
" Bank Bills on demand	$2/0\frac{7}{16}$
" Private 4 months' sight	$2/0\frac{9}{16}$
" Private 6 months' sight	$2/0\frac{13}{16}$
On Paris—Bank sight	2.56
" Private 4 months' sight	$2.60\frac{1}{2}$
On Hongkong—Bank sight	$\frac{1}{2}$ dis.
" Private 10 days' sight	$1\frac{1}{2}$ dis.
On Shanghai—Bank sight	$72\frac{3}{4}$
" Private 10 day's sight	$73\frac{3}{4}$
On Bombay—Bank sight	161
" Private 10 days' sight	169
On New York—Bank Bills on demand	$49\frac{1}{2}$
" Private 4 months' sight	$50\frac{3}{4}$
On San F'cisco—Bank Bills on demand	$49\frac{1}{2}$
" Private 4 months' sight	$50\frac{3}{4}$
Bar Silver $28\frac{5}{8}$.	

MESSERS, BISSET & URE'S COLLECTED LIST.

LOCAL STOCKS.

Yokohama, March 20th.

The following quotations have been received by wire from Hongkong to-day:—H. & S. Banks. 168 % premium Sales; Hongkong Lands $77 Buyers; China Fires $106 Steady; H. & W. Docks 245 % premium Buyers; H. & K. Wharfs $60 Buyers; Douglasses $62 Sellers; H. C. & M. Steamboats $34.75 Sales and $35 Sellers; Punjom Mines $6.75 Steady; Raub Mines $14.75 Sales; Hongkong Fires $367.50 Steady; National Banks $23.50 Sellers; Indo-Chinas $46 Sellers; Straits $20.50 Buyers; Unions $235 Steady, and Traders $79 Sellers.

A few National Banks can be had locally at $23.50 and Hongkong Fires at $372.50.

Yokohama Engine & Iron Works, Ld., $50.	$135 N.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld., $100	310 Sa.
Grand Hotel, Ld., $100	197.50 Sa.
Club Hotel, Ld., $100	70 S.
Oriental Hotel, Ld., $100	140 B.
Oriental Hotel, Ld. (Fdrs.) $12½	500 S.
North and Rae, Ld., $100	160 B.
Brett & Co., Ld., $10	8 S.
Kingfeldt & Co., Ld., $100	195 S.
Hiogo Gas Co., Ld., $100	170 N.
Club Hotel, Ld. Deb., $100	110 S.
Japan Brewery Co., Ld. Deb., $100	110 St.
Yokohama United Club Deb., $100	100 Sa.
Brett & Co., Ld. Deb., $100	104 B.

CHARTERED OR LOADING.

SHIPS.	FROM.	CASES OIL.
Bandaneira	Phila.	——
Ben Avon	Phila.	——
Carmarthenshire	New York.	——
Com. T. H. Allen	New York.	80,000
Foyledale	Phila.	70,000
Glengyle	New York.	——
Howard D. Troop	New York.	——
John Currier	Phila.	72,000
Lord Wolseley	——	——
Mogul	New York.	——
Peterborough	Phila.	——
Puritan	Phila.	100,000
Renee Rickmers	New York.	——
Robt. Rickmers	Phila.	95,000
Rosshire	Phila.	85,000
Semantha	New York.	95,000
Wm. H. Smith	New York.	75,000
Wm. H. Starbuck	Phila.	——
Wm. Tillie	Phila.	——

NEXT MAIL DUE AT YOKOHAMA.

FROM	PER	DATE.
Hongkong	C. P. S. S.	Mar. 25.°
Hongkong	M. M. S. S.	Mar. 24.*
Hongkong	N. D. L. S. S.	April 14.
Hongkong	O. & O. S. S.	Mar. 22.‡
Hongkong	P. M. S. S.	April 2.
Hongkong	P. & O. S. S.	Mar. 22.†
Vancouver	C. P. S. S.	April 12.
San Francisco	O. & O. S. S.	April 1.
San Francisco	P. M. S. S.	Mar. 23.⸹
San Francisco	P. M. S. S.	—
Tacoma & Victoria	N. P. S. S.	—

⸹ Left San Francisco, March 4th, via Honolulu, *China.*
† Left Nagasaki March 18th, at 6 p.m., via Kobe, *Ancona.*
‡ Left Shanghai, March 18th, at 6 a.m., via Nagasaki and Kobe, *Gaelic.*
* Left Hongkong, March 16th, at 5 p.m., via Shanghai and Kobe, *Salazie.*
° Left Hongkong, March 17th, at 12.30 p.m., via Shanghai, Nagasaki and Kobe, *Empress of Japan.*

NEXT MAIL LEAVES YOKOHAMA.

FOR	PER	DATE.
Hongkong	C. P. S. S.	April 12.
Hongkong	N. D. L. S. S.	April 16.
Hongkong	O. & O. S. S.	April 2.
Hongkong	P. M. S. S.	Mar. 24.
Hongkong	P. & O. S. S.	Mar. 28.
Vancouver	C. P. S. S.	Mar. 26.
San Francisco	O. & O. S. S.	Mar. 24.
San Francisco	P. M. S. S.	April 3.
Victoria & Tacoma	N. P. S. S.	Mar. 22.
Portland, Or.	O. R. & N. S. S.	April 3.
Shanghai, via Kobe	M. M. S. S.	Mar. 21.
Shanghai, via Ports	N. Y. K. S. S.	Mar. 23.

LATEST COMMERCIAL.

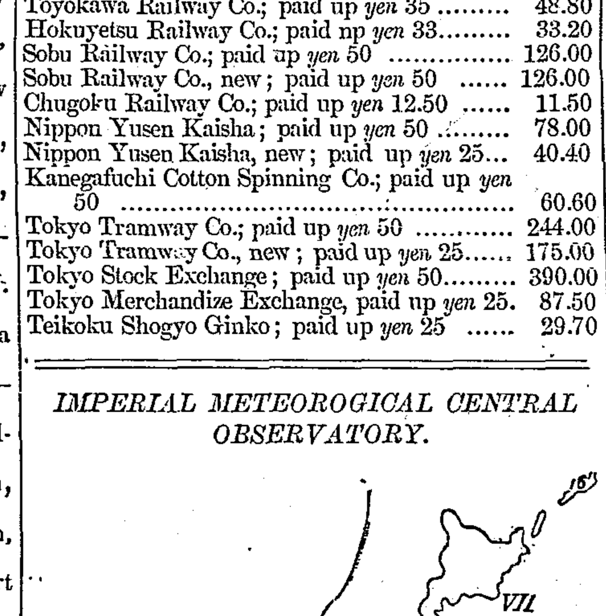
TOKYO STOCK EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS.

March 18th.

Closing Prices (Delivery in May).

	Yen.
War Loan Bonds	101.70
Kobu Railway Co.; paid up *yen* 45	140.50
Sanyo Railway Co.; paid up *yen* 33	55.20
Kansai Railway Co.; paid up *yen* 50	71.70
Kyushu Railway Co.; paid up *yen* 41	65.90
Kyushu Railway Co., new; paid up *yen* 25	43.70
Hokkaido Coal Mining Co.; paid up *yen* 50.	100.10
Sangu Railway Co.; paid up *yen* 50	104.00
Kyoto Railway Co.; paid up *yen* 20	24.60
Narita Railway Co.; paid up *yen* 50	90.10
Nishinari Railway Co.; paid up *yen* 44	68.00
Toyokawa Railway Co.; paid up *yen* 35	48.80
Hokuyetsu Railway Co.; paid np *yen* 33	33.20
Sobu Railway Co.; paid up *yen* 50	126.00
Sobu Railway Co., new; paid up *yen* 50	126.00
Chugoku Railway Co.; paid up *yen* 12.50	11.50
Nippon Yusen Kaisha; paid up *yen* 50	78.00
Nippon Yusen Kaisha, new; paid up *yen* 25	40.40
Kanegafuchi Cotton Spinning Co.; paid up *yen* 50	60.60
Tokyo Tramway Co.; paid up *yen* 50	244.00
Tokyo Tramway Co., new; paid up *yen* 25	175.00
Tokyo Stock Exchange; paid up *yen* 50	390.00
Tokyo Merchandize Exchange, paid up *yen* 25.	87.50
Teikoku Shogyo Ginko; paid up *yen* 25	29.70

IMPERIAL METEOROGICAL CENTRAL OBSERVATORY.



GENERAL REMARKS ON THE WEATHER.

Pressure ranges highest 769 mm. in Korea region, lowest 762 mm. off Eastern Hokkaido and the central South coast; temperature from 16° at Naha to 97° at Abashiri. North to Westerly winds prevail with mostly fair and colder weather, local snow on the North-West coast, local rain in the South-East.

WEATHER FORECASTS.

Districts I., II., III.—Northerly; generally fair, local rain. Districts IV., V., VI., VII.—Northerly or Westerly; generally fair, local snow. Tokyo.—Northerly; fair.

TOKYO-YOKOHAMA-KOBE LINE.

Departure.		Arrival.
Shimbashi.	Yokohama.	Kobe.
6.00 a.m.	6.48 a.m.	11.22 p.m.
12.30 p.m.	1.26 p.m.	9.00 a.m.
6.20 p.m.	7.20 p.m.	3.05 p.m.
10.00 p.m.	10.55 p.m.	7.00 p.m.
Kobe.	Yokohama.	Shimbashi.
6.00 a.m.	10.25 p.m.	11.09 p.m.
12.30 p.m.	8.08 a.m.	9.00 a.m.
10.00 p.m.	6.12 p.m.	7.06 a.m.

SHIMBASHI-YOKOHAMA RAILWAY.

SHIMBASHI—4.40, 6, 6.40, 7.25, 8.15, 9, 9.45, 10.25, 11.10, 11.50 a.m.; 12.30, 1, 1.40, 2.35, 3.25, 4.10, 4.55, 5.40, 6.20, 7.20, 8.20, 9.10, 10, 11.15 p.m.
YOKOHAMA—5.20, 6.15, 7.10, 8.08, 8.47, 9.20, 9.57, 10.45, 11.50 a.m.; 12.45, 1.35, 2.25, 2.50, 3.35, 4.15, 4.55, 5.25, 6.13, 7.15, 8, 8.50, 9.45, 10.25, 11.20 p.m.

GUESTS AT THE HOTELS.

HOTEL MÉTROPOLE.

Tsukiji, Tokyo, March 22nd.

Vicomte and Vicomtesse Dresnay, enfant, and maid, Capt. Fair, Mr. E. Foxwell, Lieut. C. de Inigo, Spanish Naval Attaché, and Madame Inigo, Major J. Cologan, Spanish Military Attaché, Mr. Hansen, Madame de Meunier, Capt. Million, Capt. Patart, Mr. R. Perrott-Forshaw, Mr. F. Schoene, Mr. Siegfried.

GRAND HOTEL, YOKOHAMA.

Mr. L. D. Abraham, Mr. J. Alfred Marcus, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. M. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. S. Apcar, Miss Malss Augusta Zickwolff, Mr. L. L. Bailey, Mrs. J. B. Bemis, Mr. F. E. Bliss, Mrs. A. B. Brolly, Miss Bestic, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Capen, Mr. D. M. Clarkson, Jr., Mr. H. Collbran, Mr. and Mrs. J. Crossley, Miss Crossley and maid Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Cummings, Miss Denny, Mr. and Mrs. Dittler, Mr. Franzins, Mr. T. Franzins, Mr. Gessler, Mrs. M. Gorham, Miss Gorham, Mr. Albert Graff, Mr. F. E. Harkness, Miss E. Hart, Miss Hogg, Miss C. Hogg, Mr. R. Howie, Mr. Leigh Hunt, Mrs. Ivanoff and child, Mrs. A. Geo. Marsh, Mr. T. D. McKay, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Morse, Dr. W. N. Misner, Miss Elsie Morse, Miss L. Morse, Mr. E. H. Morse, Mr. Max Nössler, Mr. A. Nattali, Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Newman, Mr. J. T. Pratt, Mr. C. Rogers, Mr. J. H. Rosenthal, Count and Countess von Rothenburg, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Rowlen, Mr. W. J. Russell, Mrs. Rybakoff, Dr. C. Schulten, Miss M. Serena, Mr. L. K. G. Smith, Mr. Jos. W. Sprague, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Terry, Mr. Alex. Thaler, Mr. J. Campbell Thompson, Mr. O. B. Wickham, Mr. G. Wilson, Miss E. Wilson, Mr. R. H. Wright.

CLUB HOTEL.

Mr. P. M. Ader, Mr. A. S. Aldrich, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Beale, Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Blake, Miss Burson, Mr. K. Dinklage, Mr. and Mrs. Fritzgibbon, Mr. Th. Inglis, Mrs. Leonard, Mr. J. B. Pocklington, Mr. W. H. Rathbone, Mr. Geo. Robson, Mr. T. D. Ross, Mr. L. Rossi, Mr. E. Rossi, Mr. P. Schlüter, Mr. O. Seux, Mr. F. Shaw, Mr. R. H. Sturges, Mr. N. Tate, Mr. R. Tienes, Mr. S. Tisljar, Miss Victorine Vives, Dr. and Mrs. E. Wilde, Mr. Th. Williams.

WRIGHT'S HOTEL.

Mr. C. Bamberger, Mr. Brown, Mr. C. Dillenburg, Mr. Wm. Fegen, Mr. L. Goldfinger, Mr. L. Goldsmith, Mr. R. A. Hyndes, Mr. D. A. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Mesmer, Mr. B. C. Newcomer, Mr. A. Poundall, Mr. A. W. Quinton, Mrs. H. Witt.

CLAUSEN'S HOTEL.

Miss E. Giese, Mr. B. Glasson, Mr. L. Goetschel, Mr. G. Hagmann, Mr. B. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. K. P. Johansen, Mr. May, Mr. R. Neslsen, Mr. and Mrs. Oustinoff, and 2 children, Mr. K. van Rengarten, Mrs. A. Waugh.

CLARENDON PRIVATE HOTEL.

Mr. F. S. Colman, Mr. and Mrs. Dubois and 2 children, Mr. Feichtner, Mr. W. Freeland, Mrs. Frank Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Jackman, Rev. and Mr. Noyes and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. H. Onderdonk and child, Mrs. Swain.

CENTRAL HOTEL.

Mr. Baukal, Mr. Best, Mr. H. Bruhn, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Foin, Mr. W. Greene, Mr. Klüss, Mr. Stolberg Mr. Levedag, Mr. Rene de Montjamont, Mr. F. Rehwoldt, Mr. Scott.

HIGH WATER AT TOKYO.

Mar. 22	7.33 A.M.	7.51 P.M.
" 23	8.19 "	8.42 "

	SUN RISES.	SUN SETS.
Mar. 22	5.43 A.M.	5.53 P.M.
" 23	5.42 "	5.54 "

SILK SHIPPERS.

Per P. & O. S.S. *Verona,* left 13th March, 1897.

	Bales.
Bavier & Co.	10
Dent, H., & Co.	37
Dourille, P.	9
Nabholz & Osenbrüggen	13
Pila, Ulysse & Co.	86
Reimers, O., & Co.	93
Siber, Brennwald & Co.	25
Siber & Co.	48
Varenne & Co.	15
	372

Per P. M. S.S. *City of Rio de Janeiro,* left 13th March, 1897.

	Bales.
Bavier & Co.	100
C. & J. Trading, Co. Limited	30
Fraser, Farley & Co.	20
Middleton & Smith	30
Nabholz & Osenbrüggen	21
Pila, Ulysse & Co.	51
Reimers, O., & Co.	80
Robison & Co.	6
Siber, Brennwald & Co.	361
Vivanti Bros.	55
Yokohama Kiito Gomei-Kwaisha	99
Doshin Kwaisha	40
Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha	69
	962

SEASON 1896-7.

SILK SHIPPERS FROM 1ST JULY.

	Bales.
Bavier & Co.	1,570
Chauvin, Chevalier & Co.	238
C. & J. Trading Co., Limited	250
Dent, H., & Co.	357
Dourille, P.	615
Fraser, Farley & Co.	405
Jardine, Matheson & Co.	1,410
Klingen, H., & Co.	100
Langenhagen O., de & Co.	57
Middleton & Smith	790
Nabholz & Osenbrüggen	2,539
Pila, Ulysse & Co.	2,680
Reimers, O., & Co.	2,417
Reynaud, J.	5
Robison & Co.	2,204
Siber, Brennwald & Co.	6,648
Sieber & Co.	3,192
Strachan, W. M., & Co	159
Varenne & Co.	1,717
Vivanti Bros.	2,591
The Doshin Kwaisha	1,249
The Mitsui Bussan Kwaisha	703
Yokohama Kiito Gomei Kwaisha	4,141
	36,037

Silk Shippers per S.S. *Hohenzollern,* which sailed from Yokohama March, 19th for Europe via Hongkong:—

	Raw Silk. Bales.	Wast Silk. Bales.
Otto Reimers & Co.	146	
Nabholz & Ossenbruggen	141	
Sieber & Co.	33	
Bavier & Co.	25	220
Dell'Oro & Co.		133
Jardine Matheson & Co.		21
	345	374

Silk Shippers per S.S. *Ernest Simons,* which sailed from Yokohama March 21st for Europe via Shanghai:—

	Bales.
Siber Brennwald & Co.	285
Jardine Matheson & Co.	77
Walsh, Hall & Co.	77
Robison & Co.	45
P. Dourille	28
A. Klingen & Co.	23
Bavier & Co.	20
Varenne & Co.	20
Nabholz & Ossenbruggen	13
Kiito Gomei Kaisha	3
	591

INSTRUCTION AND AMUSEMENT,

The National Museum,
Uyeno Park.
Open from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

The Zoological Garden,
Uyeno Park.
Open from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

The Tokyo Library,
Uyeno Park.
Open from 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

The Exhibition of Oil Paintings and Engravings,
Uyeno Park.
Open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Educational Museum,
Nichome, Yushima, Hongo.
Open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
On Mondays, holders of special tickets alone admitted.

The University Botanical Garden,
Hakusan, Koishikawa.
Open from 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

The Tokyo-za Theatre,
Misaki-cho, Kanda.
Historial Plays.
Open at 9 a.m. and closes at 7 p.m.

The Meiji-za Theatre,
Hisamatsu-cho, Nihonbashi.
Historical Plays.
Open at 11 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m.

The Haruki-za Theatre,
Haruki-cho, Hongo.
Historical Plays.
Open at 9 a.m. and closes at 5.30 a.m.

The Miyako-za Theatre,
Shintomi-cho, Kyobashi.
New School of Actors.
Comedies.
Open at 11 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m.

IMPERIAL POST OFFICE NOTICES.

YOKOHAMA MAILS CLOSING.

KOBE MAIL.

Ordinary Mail.	*Registered Mail.*
6.13 A.M.	6.03 A.M.
12.41 P.M.	12.11 P.M.
6.35 "	6.05 "
10.10 "	9.40 "

For Shanghai and Coast Ports.—Per steamer *Kobe Maru,* will close at 11 a.m., on Tuesday, the 23rd inst. Letters registered until 11 a.m. day of closing.

For Victoria, B. C. and Beyond.—Per steamship *Tacoma,* will close to-day March 22nd at 10 a.m. Letters registered untill 8.30 a.m. Positively no letters received on board.

CALENDAR.

MARCH 1897.

Moon's Phases.	Su.	M.	Tu.	W.	Th.	F.	S.
New Moon Mar. 3.	—	1	2	3	4	5	6
First Quarter Mar. 12.	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Full Moon Mar. 19.	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Last Quarter	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Mar. 25.	28	29	30	31	—	—	—

The Japan Times.

TOKYO, MONDAY, MARCH 22ND, 1897.

OUR "RAISON D'ETRE."

IT is a remarkable and deplorable fact that, after forty years of mutual association, His Majesty's subjects and the foreign residents remain to this day virtually strangers to each other. Those sentiments of unreasonable prejudice and hatred against foreigners, which prevailed in the country under peculiar political conditions in the latter days of the Shogunate Government, have long since ceased to influence the minds of the people. Doubtless corresponding improvement has meanwhile taken place in the attitude of foreigners toward the Japanese. A wonderful change for the better has certainly come over the mutual relations between the Japanese and foreigners. While noting this circumstance with satisfaction, we are at the same moment constrained to observe, as every candid person will readily admit, that even at this day the two sections of the community are in every important point almost totally unknown to each other. The bulk of the Japanese have as much difficulty to understand foreigners as the latter find it difficult to understand the former. Nor is this to be wondered at. The anomalous system of exterritoriality under which aliens have so long lived in this country has kept them socially and geographically apart from the nation, the intercourse between the two being mostly confined to the ordinary purposes of business. The existence of this unfortunate, and, to the Japanese, extremely humiliating institution, together with the vexing discussions and provoking incidents that have constantly taken place in connection with it, must answer in a large measure for whatever estrangement there may be between the Japanese and foreigners.

But going a little deeper into the question, it will be noticed that a still more important and formidable obstacle lies in the way of a better understanding between the foreign residents and the people of the country. We mean the linguistic difficulty. To understand a people properly, the first essential is a thorough mastery of its language and an intimate acquaintance with its literature. How many among the five thousand foreign residents—we exclude the Chinese—can fairly lay claim to the fulfilment of this condition? The number may easily be told, perhaps on the fingers of one hand! The peculiar conditions under which they have been living have probably helped to breed a habit of indifference on their part toward the study of Japanese. But the blame, it must be owned, does not entirely or primarily rest with them. Excepting Chinese, we imagine there is no language in the world which presents more appalling difficulties to an alien student than Japanese. In idiom, in construction, in its whole spirit, Japanese is so completely different from the languages of the West, that a European student has thoroughly to divest himself of all his former habits of thought and feeling, and start on an entirely new track, just as a Japanese learning any European tongue feels as though he has suddenly been transplanted to a new state of existence. As if this were not enough, the difficulties are still more increased by a wide difference between the spoken dialect and the written language, and the exceedingly complex character of the latter. Under these circumstances, we can well understand why so few have been able to acquire even a moderately accurate knowledge of the language, and why even these few have seldom, if ever, succeeded in penetrating into the intricacies of the written language. We may safely assert then that the treasures of Japanese literature have never been properly explored by foreign students. And without an intimate acquaintance with its language and literature, how can an outsider rightly appreciate the spirit and motives of a people? Considering these mountains of difficulties looming up in their sight and limiting their vision, it cannot be expected that the busy trading foreign residents should show much inclination to attempt a serious study of the Jaqanese language, especially as the sphere of its utility—the inevitable gauge of the predominance of any language—is so limited. On the part of the Japanese themselves, the knowledge of English is spreading very fast, and will spread even faster with the growth of industry and trade. But with some notable exceptions, the acquaintance of our countrymen with the English language and literature is in most cases superficial, and though it may suffice for the ordinary purposes of business intercourse, it is certainly inadequate for the wider purposes of social functions. A little knowledge of each other's language usually enables Japanese and foreigners to conduct their business transactions in a fairly satisfactory manner, but for social purposes such a makeshift is provokingly insufficient, and very often leads to much mischief. Holding conversation through such an imperfect medium, the parties usually separate without making the slightest progress toward mutual understanding. Very often it happens in such cases that they rise, each impressed with highly erroneous ideas as to the capacity and views of the other. Half the mistakes which foreign visitors commit in their opinions about the Japanese character and sentiments may be traced to this cause.

Will this unsatisfactory state of things be remedied by the abolition of Consular Jurisdiction? We doubt it very much. It will probably be corrected only in the course of some generations. But for the present, we regret to see little prospect of rapid improvement. On the contrary, for some time immediately after the coming of foreigners under Japanese rule, the situation may possibly, through circumstances not humanly preventable except in course of time, become very much worse, unless a great deal of patience and moderation are shown on both sides. Such being the position of affairs, the importance of some public organ honestly endeavouring to explain things and smooth the way between foreigners and Japanese cannot be too strongly urged. If there has ever been a real want for a new journalistic enterprise, we may fairly claim that such has been the case with the *Japan Times.*

The sphere of our usefulness—supposing we can in some measure, ever so small, fulfil our aspirations—is not circumscribed within the narrow confines of this Empire. In our recent brief visit to America and Europe, nothing struck us so profoundly as the lack of information on the part of those who, either out of curiosity or from deeper interest, are most desirous of acquiring accurate knowledge of Japan and things Japanese. They conplained of the utter impossibility of getting access to reliable sources of information. True, some very good works have of late years been published about this country, and they are certainly valuable contributions to the stock of the outside world's knowledge of contemporary Japan. But they are for the most part works of a general nature, consisting principally of the author's impressions and theories about the country and people—impressions and theories which are in many cases extremely mistaken and misleading. The real Japan has still to be revealed. We do not aspire to the production of works possessing literary merit of a lasting nature. Our aim is a humbler one, namely, to furnish reliable data for the future use of more capable hands, and at the same time to place before those practical men of business interested in the Eastern trade trustworthy and up-to-date facts and figures about the economic activity of the Japanse, nation.

Lastly, it is of the highest importance to all parties concerned that Japanese sentiments and motives should be rightly presented, in view of the momentous events that will shortly take place, if they are not already transpiring, in this part of the world, and of the part which Japan aspires and is destined to play in the arena of international contest. The linguistic difficulty already alluded to places Japan at a great disadvantage *vis-à-vis* the Powers of the West. As to the motives and aspirations of the latter, Japan has an abundance of means for making a tolerably accurate estimate; but no such facility is offered in the converse case. In the eyes of the general public abroad, Japan is like a dumb actress, leaving the audience to attach to her motions whatever meaning it may please them to choose. Justice requires us to make mention of those friends of Japan who have consistently and honestly endeavoured, through the public prints both here and abroad, to advance her cause during her long struggle to obtain the recognition of the enlightened States as an acknowledged member of their family. Their valuable services are properly appreciated by all thinking Japanese, and we would certainly be the last to belittle their claim upon the gratitude of the nation. We mean no disparagement to these eminent benefactors of the country, when we persist in our assertion that Japan has not yet been adequately represented through the press, and further, that under the circumstances it is only by the Japanese themselves that their views, sentiments, and aspirations can be correctly presented to the outside world.

Such are the principal causes that have led to the inauguration of the *Japan Times,* and such, in brief, are the aims set before it.

We are perfectly aware that we have sketched out a programme which looks decidedly ambitious, and the execution of which is attended with immense difficulties. We are also keenly sensible of the imperfection of our qualifications for a task of such importance and magnitude, especially with regard to our knowledge of English. Our command over the language being limited and imperfect, we are afraid that, even with the revisory assistance of our English Literary Editor, occasional inaccuracies and mistakes may be unavoidable, for which we claim the indulgence of all our candid readers. While thus sensible of our own imperfections, it is our fondest ambition to contribute our mite, howsoever small, to the promotion of the important object in view.

OUR FINANCIAL PROSPECT.

IN claiming admission into their fraternity, it is but just that we should take this opportunity to express our thanks to our English contemporaries at Yokohama and Kobe for their generally favourable notices of our enterprise in their editorial columns. One of them drew a very doleful picture of our financial prospect. Whether our venture will be a financial success or not, is of course a question for time alone to solve. We do not entertain any sanguine notions about our probable dividends; in fact we expect considerable loss for some months, perhaps even years, to come. But as to its ultimate success, however moderate it may be, we do not entertain the slightest doubt. We have already more subscribers among the Japanese public than we had expected, and our appeal for advertisements has (as may be seen in this issue) met with an equally encouraging response from the same quarter. As to the foreign community in the country, their attitude is also very favourable; and as a consequence, on this the first day of publication, we are in a position to state without fear of contradiction that in the number of subscribers we are very nearly, if not absolutely, at the head of the English papers in Japan.

Another contemporary, drawing attention to the fact that we pledge ourselves to distribute permanently a large number of copies all over the world, proceeds to make inferences as follows:—

> At whose expense? Probably at the expense of the same parties through whose calculating fore-thought and careful consideration of means to a desired end the semi-official journal in English has for many years found its way unsolicited to numbers of leading Clubs and other Institutions. How far such a position is compatible with that "perfect independence" which is one of the principal planks in the new journal's platform, is a point upon which some critics will require more satisfactory evidence than that contained in the bare, unsupported statement of a prospectus.

Because copies of the *Japan Times* are to be permanently sent abroad free, it is at once concluded that the paper must depend upon a Government subsidy. With reference to this extraordinary style of reasoning, we need say no more than that it is a sad commentary upon the spirit of business enterprise among the English journals in the settlements. We were not aware that it is unprecedented or unnatural to make great sacrifices for the sake of giving a new paper a good foothold; and we are innocent enough to believe that such sacrifices may be made in the end a thoroughly remunerative speculation on a sound business basis.

As an indication of the growing attention which naval and maritime affairs receive in this country, we may cite the publication of a Japanese translation of Captain Mahan's celebrated work "Influence of Sea Power upon History." The work of translation was undertaken by members of the Naval Club in Tokyo, while the publication of the book has been entrusted to the Oriental Association (Toho Kyokai). *En passant,* the last mentioned organization, which includes among its members men prominent in every field of life, is doing excellent work in disseminating among the people useful knowledge about our near neighbours and the general situation in the Far East.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

[REUTER'S SPECIAL TELEGRAMS TO THE "JAPAN TIMES."]

London, March 13th.

It is believed that the negotiations between the Powers on the Cretan question tends in favour of conciliation towards Greece rather than to the adoption of severe measures.

There is talk of utilizing Greek troops under European officers in pacifying Crete.

London, March 15th.

The Budget Committee of the German Reichstag has refused to pass the vote of twelve millions for new ships.

The Russian semi-official press insists upon the coercion of Greece, the Powers being determined upon the maintenance of peace in the East. Meanwhile, there is a growing tension on the frontiers of Macedonia where the massing of troops continues.

England has beaten Scotland in the Rugby football match by twelve points to three.

It is semi-officially stated in Vienna that Russia, Germany, and Austria have instructed their naval commanders at Crete to concert measures for the blockade of Cretan and Greek ports. It is expected that Great Britain, Italy, and France will follow suit.

London, March 16th.

The French Chamber of Deputies has adopted, by a vote of 356 to 143, the policy of the Government on the Cretan question, after a speech by M. Hanotaux, Minister of Foreign Affairs, in which he explained that it had been decided to blockade Crete and, if necessary, the Greek ports, in order to compel the Greeks to withdraw from Crete.

M. Hanotaux added that each Power will send an additional six hundred men to reinforce their contingents ashore.

In his Message at the opening of the Extra Session of Congress, President McKinley briefly urges the prompt revision of the tariff.

London, March 17th.

A terrible accident has occurred on the Russian turret ship *Sissoi Veliky*. During practice outside Suda Bay, Crete, a gun burst killing seventeen men outright and wounding twenty.

London, March 18th.

All the Greek troops, with the exception of the Crown Prince's Regiment, have gone to the frontier, and there is a conviction in Athens that war is inevitable.

France is sending six hundred Marines to Crete.

The blockade of Crete has virtually begun, and if Greece remains obstinate the allied squadrons will blockade the Piraeus and probably also the port of Volos.

The Greek troops in Crete have been ordered to occupy Sphakia and there to await events.

London, March 19th.

The greatest activity prevails in all arsenals.

A number of steamers have been chartered by the British Government to take stores to Malta, and war stores are being constantly despatched to the Cape.

Six hundred of the Seaforth Highlanders have been ordered to proceed to Crete.

The Admirals of the . . . . squadrons in the Levant have proclaimed the autonomy of Crete.

London, March 20th.

A Russian regiment has passed the Bosphorus on its way to Crete.

It has been decided that British troops are to occupy Candia, French troops Sitia and Spinalonga, whilst the Russians will occupy Retimo, and the Germans Suda Bay and Canea.

Her Majesty the Queen has appointed the 25th June as a day of thanksgiving for her record reign.

LOCAL TELEGRAMS.

Nemuro, March 19th, p.m.

The ice in the Strait of Nemuro has all melted away.

Otaru, March 19th, p.m.

1,500 emigrants to Kamikawa have just landed here.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Spring Exhibition of the Japan Art Society (Nippon Bijutsu Kyokai) will be held at Uyeno from the 1st of April next.

The present session of the Diet is to end on Wednesday next, but there being still a few important Bills to be disposed of, it will be prolonged a few days, some say till the 27th instant.

Viscount Aoki, Japanese Minister at Berlin, it is reported, will return home by the end of April or the beginning of May. It is believed that, like Baron Nishi, the late Representative to Russia, he will be given a seat in the Privy Council.

Widespread sympathy is shown in Japan for the sufferers in India. Besides the collections by the Bank of Japan, and among the Buddhists, the United Cotton Spinners' Association is actively engaged in raising funds. The sum of money thus far collected by the last mentioned body is reported to have reached 3,300 *yen*.

Marquis Ito, who returned to Tokyo a few days ago, to attend the requiem service at the Zojoji Temple, Shiba, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of his father, left town for his villa at Oiso on Saturday last. He suffers from persistent attacks of toothache, but his general health is excellent. We are sorry to announce that Marchioness Ito's health was not in a condition to allow her to come back to the capital for the above mentioned service.

It is rumoured that Count Matsukata, the Premier, will be relieved of his additional post of Finance Minister, and that his successor will be Baron Tajiri. Another rumour has it that, after the prorogation of the Diet, a change will take place in the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, where Baron Yasuda, a prominent figure in the House of Peers, is pointed out as the probable successor of Viscount Enomoto. These rumours are probably a little premature, but there is a strong conviction in the political world in Tokyo that some changes will shortly take place in the Cabinet.

Apart from the Ministerial posts, it is believed that more or less important changes will take place in the minor positions, civil and diplomatic. There are so many eager expectants of office among the supporters of the Government, that something will have to be done to gratify them. The measure to which these politicians attach the greatest importance is the creation of Political Vice-Ministers of State. This proposal met with flat rejection at the hands of the Administrative Reform Commission appointed by the present Cabinet directly after its coming into office. But these ambitious politicians are not to be deterred by the veto of the Commission; and there is now talk of the same posts being established under the name of Chief Councillors.

The Liberal party is in a bad plight. After the secession of Mr. Hironaka Kono, for many years the leader of the party in the Lower House, and several other well known politicians, it was believed that the *Jiyu-to* would do something to revive the flagging spirits of its members. But this expectation has been illusory. The latest news is that Count Itagaki has resigned the leadership of the party. Things seem to be going from bad to worse in that quarter. The party, however, still contains several capable leaders, and there is hope that the remaining elements may finally be pulled together into a strong, compact party.

It is customary with Mr. Fukuzawa's admirers and disciples in the Diet to invite him to a dinner every spring while the Houses are in session. This year the usual dinner came off on the 18th inst. at the Maple Club, Shiba. Among those present we notice the names of Baron Nabeshima, Mr. Obata, Mr. Isahaya, Mr. Takiguchi, Mr. Sameshima, and Mr. Kuroshima, of the Upper House, and Mr. Inukai, Mr. Ozaki, Mr. Kashiwada, Mr. Inouye, and several others of the Lower House.

The *Mainichi Shimbun*, the Progressionist organ, has been enlarged since the issue of the 14th instant, the number of pages, hitherto six, being increased to eight. We also notice that more space and care are devoted to commercial and industrial matters than formerly, while just enough of light literary matter is inserted. Altogether, the *Mainichi* is now a very different paper from what it used to be some years ago when it was regarded as the driest sheet in Tokyo.

The *Sekai-no-Nippon* states that a number of influential capitalists, whose names are withheld for the present, have under consideration the formation of a company for the development of trade between Japan and Russia. The contemplated company's object is said to be two-fold, namely, to engage in business, and to educate promising young men for special purposes connected therewith. According to the present scheme, the head office is to be established at Vladivostock, with branches at two or three other places.

The constitution of the Industrial Bank of Japan (Nippon Kwangyo Ginko), drawn up by the Special Commission appointed for the purpose, has been approved by the Government. Before, however, the bank can be finally organized, a special licence has to be obtained from the Government. As soon as this necessary step shall have been completed—which, it is believed, will be at the beginning of June—the whole affair will be handed over by the Commission to the control of the President of the Bank, who is to be appointed by the Government by that time. The business transactions of the new bank will begin on the 1st of July next.

Statistics published by meteorological observatories, central and district, show that during the last 24 years, the average date of the final frost has ranged from 6th March in Hamamatsu to 30th May in Kamikawa, Hokkaido, and the latest date of frost on record since the observatories have been established is at the last mentioned place on July 7th, 1890. The principal records are:—

Final frost in	Average date.	Latest date.
Yokosuka	March 16	March 25, in 1896.
Sasebo	March 21	April 11, in 1895.
Nagasaki	March 27	April 16, in 1882.
Kure	March 28	March 31, in 1895.
Kagoshima	April 1	April 10, in 1885.
Wakayama	April 1	April 24, in 1887.
Niigata	April 2	April 17, in 1883.
Tsu	April 3	April 15, in 1895.
Tokyo	April 5	April 14, in 1878.
Osaka	April 7	April 25, in 1887.
Kanazawa	April 13	May 8, in 1886.
Nagoya	April 14	May 8, in 1886.
Sakai	April 20	May 8, in 1886.
Gifu	April 24	May 27, in 1886.
Kyoto	April 26	May 12, in 1885.
Hakodate	May 8	May 24, in 1889.

There is a constantly increasing demand in Japan for lead pipes of various sizes, for water, gas, and other purposes. Hitherto the chief supply has been drawn from two factories in England and one in France, though of course there are many others in Europe and America. The machinery used for making lead pipe is of very intricate construction, and the proprietors of patents connected with the manufacture are naturally very careful of their rights. It is even said that they keep the process quite secret so as to retain the business entirely in their own hands. Mr. Wakayama Genkichi, formerly in the mechanical department of the Admiralty, is said to have succeeded in setting up a pipe-making plant in Japan, after years of industrious attempts and investigations. Pipes of his manufacture have been tested by the Osaka waterworks authorities, with such great success that it has been determined to establish the manufacture of lead pipes on a large scale at Shikoku-cho, Mita, in Tokyo, with a branch also at Osaka. Lead will be imported from England and Australia, and the manufactured product will be in the hands of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha for disposal. The celebrated lead mines of Siberia ought to be a more suitable source of supply than such distant places as England and Australia, but we do not know how the prices compare.

The output of coal from Kyushu last year has been some ten per cent. less than in previous years, though the demand for coal is increasing daily. The output of Hokkaido coal also shows a tendency to decrease. Prices are therefore rising steadily, and quotations are very firm. The requirements of Hongkong and Singapore are not being satisfied, and at Karatsu, Moji, and other places the supply is far short of the needs of the market. In Karatsu, Yoshitane, and Tunabe, there are eager purchasers for coal that is not yet got out of the mine, and mine owners have agreed to put prices up by $1. The recent release of convicts on account of the amnesty on the occasion of the Empress Dowager's death, has deprived the Miike collieries of labourers to a very serious extent. The northern ports of China are now free of ice and reopened to navigation, and rates, which were 70 to 80 *sen* last November, now rule about 1 *yen* to 1.20, from Karatsu and Moji to Yokohama. From these causes, coal has gone up about 4 *yen* since the new year. Prices in Tokyo are (per 10,000 lbs.):—Karatsu coal best quality, 42 *yen*; middle class, 40 *yen*; dust, 35 *yen*; Chikuzen lump coal, best quality, 41 *yen*; Buzen lump coal, best quality, 44 *yen*. Even at such high prices the supply is scarce. We are informed by men of wide experience in the coal business, that one of the principal causes of the present insufficiency of coal in the market is a general tendency among mine owners to hold back in anticipation of a still greater rise of price in the immediate future.

Apropos the present extraordinary rise in the market price of coal, the *Shogyo Shimpo* draws attention to the following circumstances as being the probable causes:—(1) A temporary decrease in the output of coal has been brought about by a large number of coolies having left work during the New Year holidays according to the old calendar. (2) The above mentioned holidays have also led to the diminution of the number of Japanese junks employed in the transportation of coal. (3) The Hokkaido coal is temporarily shut out from the market owing to the heavy snow fall. (4) While these circumstances have combined to reduce the quantity of available coal, the demand is steadily increasing on account, on the one hand, of the growth of home industry in all its branches, and, on the other, of the slowly reviving activity of the manufactories at Bombay. (5) The general upward tendency has been accelerated by the invitation issued by the Railway Bureau for tenders for coals amounting in quantity to about 34 million tons. In our contemporary's opinion, the coal trade will not return to its normal state until some time in May next.

The Soyeda Railway Company and the Nanden Railway Company have agreed to amalgamate, as both terminate at Soyeda village, in Tagawa district, Fukuoka prefecture, and both were constructed for the purpose of affording facilities for communication between Soyeda and various collieries scattered about the district.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The P. & O. S.S. *Ceylon* will leave Kobe for London via ports on March 23rd.

The P. & O. S.S. *Candia*, due at Yokohama to-day, March 22nd, is bringing up the Cargo per S.S. *Ceylon*, from London, also the Cargo of the chartered steamer *Florida* from Bombay.

The S.S. *Tsinan* left Hongkong at noon on March 19th for Yokohama, direct.

YOKOHAMA NEWS.

(FROM OUR YOKOHAMA CORRESPONDENT.)

The first number of the *Japan Times* is published on the centenary of the founder of the German Empire, to-day being the hundredth anniversary of the birth of King William the First. Yesterday the German community had a grand picnic at Omori, where they enjoyed themselves right royally, and to-day on board H.I.G.M.'s flagship *Kaiser*, at Yokohama, there will be a Festival Service held at 10.30 a.m., to which all the German community are invited. In the evening there will be a grand festival on board the same ship, in which the officers of the German fleet now assembled in Yokohama Harbour and the whole German community will take part. We understand that the ships of the fleet will be illuminated and that there will be a grand display of fireworks in the evening. The noble monarch, the centenary of whose birth is being to-day celebrated by Germans all over the world, was a great man in every sense of the word, and, as founder of the German Empire, is well worthy of the title German historians delight in giving him, *William the Great*, but in his private life, by the simplicity and beauty of his character, he has earned, what to me seems a far greater title, that of *William the Beloved*.

On the day that the Germans are celebrating the centenary of the birth of the founder of the German Empire, British subjects in Yokohama are to be called together to decide how they will celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of their beloved Queen. A meeting is to be held this afternoon at 3 o'clock at the British Consulate, to discuss the subject, and I hope that whatever means are decided upon they will be decided unanimously. The building of a church, the handing over of the Public Hall to the community, and other schemes which have been talked about, are all very good in their way, but it should be remembered, on such an occasion as this, that selfishness in urging anything in which one is particularly interested, should be avoided. I well remember, ten years ago, when a meeting was called to consider how the Golden Jubilee should be commemorated, how very close the voting was in favour of the Victoria Public School, and I have no hesitation in saying that, but for the selfishness of a number of people who could not afford to send their children home to be educated, and who thought that by this means they would be able to secure for them a good education here, that scheme would never have been carried, and the British community would have been spared the ignominy of the failure which attended it. I mention this as a warning to those who are desirous of submitting their views to the meeting to be held this afternoon. Whatever is decided, let it be that which meets with the approval of those present; not one idea as opposed to another, about which the community are almost evenly divided, but something of which the greater part of the British subjects approve.

The Cricket season will soon commence in Yokohama, and a meeting was held on Friday last to consider the best means of providing funds for the extra outlay which is necessary in order to keep the ground and buildings in a proper condition.

The great fight in America has been decided, and the Stars and Stripes have lost. This will be a great blow to American sportsmen, who have so long prided themselves on holding the championship of the prize ring. I am indebted to Mr. Eppinger, the Manager of the Grand Hotel, for the following copy of a telegram sent to him:—"Fitzsimmons won in fourteen rounds."

The Grand Hotel Band will play during dinner this evening.

THE JAPANESE PRESS.

Japan and England. The *Kokumin Shimbun* is highly satisfied with the growth of friendly feelings between Japan and England. During the early stages of the late Japan-China war, the actions of certain British men-of-war, says our contemporary, created resentment on the part of the Japanese nation, but "England's firm abstinence from the coercive coalition organized by Russia has won the grateful appreciation of our countrymen, and the friendship between the two nations is now daily growing more and more intimate." After alluding with satisfaction to the efforts consistently put forth by our able Minister at London, Mr. Kato, with a view to the cultivation of British friendship, the *Kokumin* proceeds as follows:—"A large circle of men in England are now in favour of alliance between their country and Japan: they look upon this country as their promising friend in the Far East, and maintain that the two nations ought to take concerted action for their common welfare. Now that our relationship with England—which, both from motives of interest and honour, is destined to grow more intimate—is already becoming so friendly, we cannot help expressing our sincere congratulation for the sake of our Empire." It then goes on to refer to the general attitude of British diplomacy in Europe and Asia, and infers that in both these quarters, the Salisbury Cabinet has now awakened to the necessity of an active policy. The *Kokumin* is impressed with an idea that England is now determined never to allow Russia to take a single step toward mastery over Korea, and urges the Matsukata Cabinet to be wise enough to avail itself of the unique opportunity offered by the present state of affairs and shape its foreign policy accordingly. All this is very good, and we (*Japan Times*) are not less satisfied than the *Kokumin* with the growing intimacy between the two countries, though we are not so sanguine about England opposing Russia in Korea. But we cannot pass over a statement which we find in the same article, to the effect that the Ito Cabinet, in its eagerness to court the good will of Russia, kept England out of view. This is not true; all well informed observers will agree with us when we state that, so far from disregarding England, the late Cabinet from beginning to end manifested uniform friendship and consideration to that Power.

The Diamond Anniversary and Japan. The *Kokumin* in another article strongly urges upon the Government the importance of despatching a special Ambassador to England to do honour to Her Britannic Majesty on the occasion of her Diamond Anniversary. There is talk of either Marquis Ito or Marquis Yamagata being chosen for this distinguished mission. But our contemporary has an objection against the former, because, as stated above, it labours under the erroneous impression that the late Premier is rather indifferent to British friendship. As to Marquis Yamagata, he is declared to be well fitted for the purpose, but it is feared he will not accept the offer. There being no other suitable candidate for a mission of such importance, the *Kokumin* suggests that the Crown Prince would be the right person to represent the Emperor at the Anniversary. The trip to England will prove very advantageous to His Imperial Highness himself. But since there may be obstacles to his leaving the country, our contemporary recommends that in such case one of the Princes of the Imperial family be sent instead. At all events, the *Kokumin* sees no reason why the Government should not take prompt steps to decide whom to appoint as chief of the mission.

How to Make Ends Meet. There being talk of the raising of a big foreign loan by the Japanese Government, it naturally forms a topic of frequent discussion in the columns of the metropolitan papers. Opinion is, as may be expected, much divided. The *Jiji Shimpo* is opposed to the proposed measure. Not, however, because it is a foreign loan, but because the object for which the money thus realized is to be spent properly belongs to the category of things for which taxation and not a loan would form the legitimate source of supply. If the money were to be devoted to works of which the benefits are to be largely shared by future generations, such, for instance, as harbour improvement, construction of canals, and so forth, the *Jiji* could understand the propriety of raising it by means of a public loan. But in the present instance, the fund is to be appropriated mostly for extraordinary expenses connected with the increase of the Army and the Navy. Expenses of this nature should, in our contemporary's opinion, be defrayed out of current taxation. Instead, therefore, of resorting to a loan, domestic or foreign, the *Jiji* recommends the Cabinet to turn to internal taxation. In its opinion, the tax on *saké* may be considerably increased. There certainly is some logic in the contention that warships, which will be obsolete in our children's time, should not then have to be paid for by the coming generation, while permanent public works of use to all posterity could fairly be paid for by posterity.

KOREAN NOTES.

MONEY AND MISSION WORK.

Returns show that Roman Catholic missions in Korea cost $10,000 per annum; American Protestant missions about $20,000, and English £1,200. Commenting upon these figures, the *Nagasaki Express* remarks that "when it is thought what an infinity of misery the judicious distribution of that amount would have averted in the places wherein the money was collected, we cannot help wondering whether the good people who persistently contribute towards the conversion of the heathen ever really do reflect upon the worth of the trite old saying that 'charity begins at home?' Reducing the matter to a vulgar, material and utterly non-sectarian problem Does Christianity do $50,000 per annum worth of good in Korea? If so, how? And then again:—Is the Christianity administered by the American missions of so far superior a type as to justify the palpably greater expense in its administration than that entailed by any other species of Christianity? If not, why administer it?" Our contemporary concludes that people of all sects "may rest assured that the Koreans, as a race, will never know the difference in creed, and profit but little by the principle anyhow." We might perhaps not go so far as to say one religion is quite as good as another; we might concede that a change from one to another may be an advantage. But we must say there could be greater advantages obtained for the money in other directions.

INDIAN NOTES.

The Indian famine reports afford several most significant lessons for the whole world, and not least for Japan. First, they show forcibly how (until vast engineering schemes are step by step accomplished) the human race is at the mercy of nature; for the absence of rain has in a few weeks devastated one of the most populous and prosperous empires of the world. The moral of this is that a Government's first duty is to guard against the treacheries of nature at all costs, as for example by irrigation works to combat drought; for the money that is being lost now is estimated at five million yen, and the suffering cannot be expressed in money. Defining "famine" as a lack of sufficient food even to preserve life, 36 millions are in that state; and defining it as a lack of food enough to preserve average health and strength and keep up the ordinary pursuits, 44 millions more are in that state—in all, twice the population of Japan! Secondly, the reports show how nobly mankind rallies together at the cry of distress, in spite of all differences, political, religious, racial, or any sort of antagonism; for money is being subscribed in every part of the globe. Thirdly, we may learn the urgent necessity of incessant improvement in rapidity, facility, and cheapness of internal communications, for though there is now no lack of help for our unhappy black brothers, thousands are dying daily because the time in transit is too long. And, finally, we may be thankful that Japan is a small country, where any district in sudden need can be reached promptly, as we had good reason to know last year, when the least accessible part of the coast was devastated by a tidal wave, and other regions were swept by floods, which in course of time we hope to be able to prevent, or at any rate considerably diminish.

BANKS IN JAPAN.

According to the returns published after thorough examination by the Department of Finance, the total number of banks of various kinds at the end of last month was 1,377, and the total capital 255,549,514 *yen*. Compared with last year they had increased by 22 in number and *yen* 3,245,000 in capital. At the end of last year there were:—

Style.	Number of Banks.	Capital. *Yen.*
Nippon Ginko.	1	30,000,000
Shōkin Ginko (Specie Bank.)	1	12,000,000
National Banks	115	43,126,100
Savings Banks	165	12,425,500
Joint-Stock and other Banks.	1,003	150,525,894
Private-owned Banks	70	4,200,020
Total	1,355	252,304,514

Since the beginning of this year, one bank with 100,000 *yen* capital has been turned into a savings bank, and one with 60,000 *yen* capital has been turned into a combination of savings bank and ordinary business. The appended tabular statement shows other changes during this year:—

NEWLY-ESTABLISHED BANKS.

Style.	Number of Banks.	Capital.
Savings Banks	5	210,000
Joint Stock and other Banks.	19	2,870,000
Private-owned Banks	1	500,000
Total	25	3,580,000

INCREASE OF BANKS' CAPITAL.

Style.	Amount of Increase	Number of Banks.
Savings Banks	15,000	1
Joint Stock Banks	70,000	8
Total	85,000	9

DECREASE OF CAPITAL.

Style.	Amount of Decrease. *Yen.*	Number of Banks.
Joint Stock Bank	30,000	1

CHANGES FROM NATIONAL TO PRIVATE BANKS.

Number.	Capital.
3	*Yen* 550,000

BUSINESS CLOSED.

Style.	Number of Banks.	Capital.
Joint Stock Bank	1	100,000

BANKS AT PRESENT.

Style.	Number of Banks.	Capital.
Nippon Ginko	1	30,000,000
Shokin Ginko	1	12,000,000
National Banks	112	42,5706,10
Savings Banks	171	12,837,500
Joint Stock and other Banks...	1,021	153,435,894
Private-owned Banks.........	71	4,700,020
Total	1,377	255,549,514

FOREIGNERS IN TOKYO.

The number of foreigners in Tokyo on Dec. 31st, 1896, totalled 628 (males 377, females 251). Details are as follow:—

FOREIGNERS IN SETTLEMENT.

Nationalities.	Male.	Female.	Total.
British	27	16	43
American	53	60	113
French	9	9	15
German	5	2	7
Belgian	2	2	4
Italian	1	—	1
Spanish	5	2	7
Swiss	2	—	2
Chinese	9	12	21
Total	113	100	213

FOREIGNERS OUT OF SETTLEMENT.

Nationalities.	Male.	Female.	Total.
British	92	65	157
French	10	13	23
American	44	40	84
German	47	20	67
Dutch	2	6	8
Russian	8	2	10
Italian	7	—	7
Austrian	2	—	2
Swiss	4	—	4
Hawaiian	3	1	4
Belgian	3	1	4
Chinese	34	3	37
Korean	8	—	8
Total	264	151	415

Visitors at hotels are not included in the above list.

The aggregate postal, telegraph, and telephone receipts for last month were 959,122 *yen*, showing a decrease of 59,966 *yen* as compared with those of last December, when they were 819,088 *yen*; but an increase of 59,830 *yen* compared with the revenue in February last year, which amounted to 699,292 *yen*.

SAVAGE MURDER IN INDIA.

At Lahore, in northern India, on the 2nd February, a native of the Pathan-Ghazi hill-country committed a most barbarous attack on two Europeans, Mr. and Mrs. Band. He stabbed them both with a long knife, so severely that the lady died in a few minutes and her husband was for a time in a precarious condition. The murderer was a complete stranger and had no complaint against his victims, but said he had come from Peshawur to Lahore for the sole purpose of killing Europeans. We consider it better taste to leave certain obvious comments unwritten.

REVIEWS.

"A HISTORY OF SAPPORO."*
(*Sapporo Yenkaku-shi.*)

This little volume of about 250 pages is the first publication of the Historical Society of Sapporo, of which Dr. Inazo Nitobe is the President. Besides some interesting references to the successive efforts of colonization in Hokkaido in the pre-Restoration days, the book before us supplies us with a very full historical description of the capital city of the North, growing gradually from an obscure hamlet of 13 pioneers in 1870 to a flourishing industrial town of close upon 30,000 inhabitants at the present day. Among the principal factories there, we may note the Hemp and Flax Manufactory (capital 1,600,000 *yen*), the Sugar Refinery, the Beer Brewery, the Wine Manufactory, the Flour Mill, the Machine Manufactory, and so forth. At the end of the volume, we find a prize essay upon the future of Sapporo. The writer anticipates that fifty years hence Sapporo will be to Japan what Edinburgh is to Great Britain.

"RIVERS, LAKES, AND SWAMPS."†
(*Kawa oyobi Ko-taku.*)

BY

SHIGETAKA SHIGA.

We welcome the issue of the third edition of this very suggestive work by one of the most popular writers in Japan. Mr. Shiga is called by his admirers the Ruskin of Japan. Without undertaking to say how far the resemblance is true, it may be safely stated that in one essential respect the well known editor of the *Nippon-jin* occupies a similar position in contemporary Japanese literature. Like the great Englishman, Mr. Shiga is a consummate master of graceful and poetic prose. Even the driest subject becomes attractive and interesting when once touched by his charming pen. Such is assuredly the case with the volume before us. The commonplace details connected with a branch of physical geography dealing with the influence which watercourses exercise upon the development of human society, are treated in such a manner that the student on taking up the book will be irresistibly led on and on until he comes to the end. We understand the author has now on hand another work on a similar plan, dealing with islands and peninsulas, and their influence upon human history.

* Published by the Sapporo Historical Society No. 7, Nishi Itchome, Minami-Nijo, Sapporo. Price, 50 *sen*.
† Sold at the Tokyo-do, Omote-Jimbo-cho, Kanda, Tokyo. Price 20 *sen*.

NEWS FROM CHINA.

A correspondent of the Shanghai morning journal draws attention to the fact that the foreigners who comprise the Municipal Council there have just issued a report which, *inter alia*, deplores and protests against the continuance of gambling among the Chinese at Li Hong Kew; while practically the same foreigners, at a meeting of the Race Club, unanimously agreed to alter the arrangements at the race-course specially in order that the Club could make money out of Chinese gambling at the "totalisator." It certainly does appear anomalous.

The Chinese authorities in Shanghai have been induced by the British Consul-General, at the instance of missionary bodies, to issue orders prohibiting Chinese printers and publishers from reprinting the publications of the Society for the Diffusion of Christian and General Knowledge. All such reprints are to be confiscated and the publishers prosecuted. We have this on the authority of our Shanghai morning contemporary. We previously had the impression that the Society was only too anxious to have its propaganda disseminated by every possible means, and would have been rather pleased if the Chinese would take so much notice of them.

It is reported that Sir Robert Hart has sent round a circular to the Commissioners of Customs at the various Chinese ports, instructing them to begin preparations for the representation of China at the French Universal Exhibition in 1900. It is not creditable to China that she should have to depend upon foreign employés in a matter of this kind; but what can she do without them?

Official returns have been published giving the gross revenue of China for the past fiscal year, ending 1st Feb., 1897:—

	Tls.
Total revenue derived from the Imperial Maritime Customs	15,500,000
Total revenue derived from the land and grain taxes	10,800,009
Total revenue derived from the Salt Gabelle	12,200,000
Total revenue derived from ordinary taxes on home produce	2,600,000
Total revenue derived from likin	13,400,000
Total revenue derived from licences on tea, pawnshops, and salt mono polies	3,500,000
Total revenue derived from duties on miscellaneous articles of consumption and use	15,300,000
	Tls. 73,300,000
Deduct cost of transport, leakage, and waste	550,000
Total gross revenue as reported	Tls. 72,750,000

At Hongkong, on the 5th inst., a great banquet was held in honour of Mr. Wu Ting-fang, otherwise Ng Choy, who, after having occupied various responsible posts under the British Government in Hongkong, is now a Chinaman again, and is going as Chinese Minister to the United States, Spain, and Peru—a rather wide commission. One of the after-dinner speeches gives his career thus:—

Appointment in the Hongkong Government Service, 1861; left for England in March, 1874; called to the Bar, Lincoln's Inn, 31st January, 1877, and in the same year returned to Hongkong; admitted to practise in the Supreme Court, 18th May, 1877; appointed Member of the Legislative Council, 26th February, 1880, and Acting Magistrate, 3rd May, 1880. With this record and excellent prospects before you, Your Excellency still thought that this Hongkong was too small a place for the development of your great talents, and having an ambition for a higher sphere of life you steered for the north, accepting the appointment of Secretary and Legal Adviser to H.E. Viceroy Li, and afterwards the additional post of Chief Director of Railways at Tientsin; and two years after, I understand, you were also appointed Director of the Tientsin University. In 1895, you went to Japan twice and assisted Viceroy Li in the conclusion of the treaty of peace; and when H.E. Viceroy Li was appointed as Special Ambassador to Russia and Europe you were recommended to assist H.E. Chang Yu-Woon in settling and determining the commercial treaty between China and Japan. Your valuable services and ability were duly recognized by our Government, and you are appointed to your present post of Minister abroad.—(Applause.) In appointing you as Minister abroad, I do not think our Government could have chosen a better man. I think you are the right man in the right place, and with your wide experience during the many stages of your life and your dealings with men of all stamps, creeds, and races, and with your tact and skill as a lawyer, no doubt you will play a clever part as a diplomat, and whenever any difficulties and ruptures arise between our country and the countries you are accredited to, you will be able to settle them in an harmonious and satisfactory manner to the credit of our country. In view of the step taken by our Government in appointing Your Excellency to the United States of America, Spain, and Peru, and H.E. Loh to England, both of you with foreign education, it appears to me that our Government has a strong inclination for reform and progress.—(Applause) I am in hopes that on your return from your mission, after filling your office with honour and credit, that you will be promoted to a high place, either as one of the Presidents of the Six Boards, or Chancellor in the Privy Council, or Minister for Foreign Affairs; and I doubt not that, before a decade is out, Your Excellency may be the Premier of China.—(Loud applause). Count Ito, I think, was educated about the same time as you were in England. He has been entrusted with the portfolio of Premier by the Japanese Emperor. I really do not see any reason why you should not, in like manner, become some day the Premier of China.—(Loud applause).

There was much more speechmaking, but nothing of great importance. In all references to the possible regeneration of China, the speakers relied entirely on such men as Wu Ting-fang and his chief secretary, Dr. Ho Kai (who has also been a member of the Hongkong Legislature)—born or brought up in Hongkong, educated in English schools, and Chinese only in name and ancestry. But all the speakers carefully steered clear of the nationality question. It is strange that members of a British Colonial legislature should be eligible for the Chinese diplomatic service.

RUSSIA AND BRITAIN IN ASIA.

There were some indications in connection with the Korean question, and more decided proofs in connection with the Armenian and Cretan questions, that Britain and Russia, formerly believed to be irreconcilable, were learning to work together and harmonise their conflicting interests in the two centres of disturbance, Turkey and the Far East. It has even been suggested that British statesmen, in making great sacrifices to secure a permanent Arbitration Treaty with the United States, had in view the possibility of a similar agreement with Russia as a sequel. Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, V.C., one of the greatest politico-military authorities of England, refers to several points in this connection, in his recent book "Forty-One Years in India," which has given rise to an important article in the *Saturday Review* by Sir Charles Dilke, who has an equally good reputation as a statesman and politician. In his remarks there is much that concerns Japan, for Russia and Great Britain are the greatest of all the Powers with which Japan has to deal; and the relations between those two, even in regard to a remote place like Crete or Armenia or Afghanistan, have an immediate importance to this country for general reasons. Sir Charles Dilke writes:—

One of the gravest questions which confront the British statesman is that of the defence of Afghanistan. We are undoubtedly committed by very definite engagements to the present Ameer of Afghanistan to defend his kingdom against Russian attack. It is probable that no such attack will be made during the present Ameer's life. But the policy which led to these promises being given by Mr. Gladstone's Government was not a pro-Afghan but was a pro-British policy. The promises were not given out of friendship to the Ameer, but out of regard to the interests or the necessities of British India. The experience of the last days of the recent war between China and Japan has shown the Russians that they are still vulnerable on the Pacific; but in the course of time, with the completion of the Russian railways in Siberia, that vulnerability will gradually disappear, and it is difficult to see how, after that time, any Power which, by Russian aggression, may be driven into war with Russia, will be able to impose peace on Russia, even though the war itself may have been carried on without disaster or with a fair measure of general success. The defence of India in Afghanistan itself is difficult; and the measures taken toward that end would probably lead to a virtual partition of Afghanistan, even though that partition were not desired by ourselves. Any Russian advance would doubtless be met by a completion of our military railways to Kandahar or towards the Helmund, and southern Afghanistan would pass under our control if Herat or Afghan-Turkestan were invaded by the Russian army. There would, however, follow a contiguity with the enormous land armies of a possible enemy, which would impose on India and on the United Kingdom a military strain of a character which the Empire has never yet experienced; and it is indeed difficult to see how this strain can eventually be avoided.

Lord Salisbury contended that the policy of the Crimean War, which Mr. Gladstone still defends, was a mistake which led inevitably to the fresh mistakes of the policy of 1878; that if the partition of Turkey were again to be proposed by Russia to this country as it was proposed before the Crimean War, it would be joyfully or gratefully accepted; and it is obvious from this speech, from Mr. Balfour's speech as to the acquisition by Russia of an open port upon the Pacific, and from other signs, that the Conservative party is now asked to entirely reverse that which has been its policy during the lifetime of the present generation, and to enter upon a policy of close friendship, if not of actual alliance, with the Russian Empire.

Those who, like Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour, appear to think that all possible differences with Russia can be composed, and that it can be safe for the British Empire, with the small forces that India can afford, to lie side by side with a Power already possessing a peace army of a million men, must be prepared to look forward to the gradual extinction under a Protective system of our China trade. They must be prepared to look forward to the eventual fortification of the strongest position in the world, that of the Dardanelles, with a Russian Black Sea and Sea of Marmora behind it, forming one vast naval arsenal, to the dominance of Russia in the Baltic, and to the consolidation of a military Power which in the North, where we have an enormous trade, has national interests which appear likely to bring about conflicts with us from time to time. If we are prepared for the inevitable consequence in the gradual shrinkage of our trade, and if we have made up our minds to look forward to an era in which Russia and the United States will be the only really Great Powers of the world, while we are content with a humbler place in the second rank, there may be something to be said for helping on this fate. But it must be doubtful whether a Power which is prepared to make all these concessions can retain India, and occupy a sufficient place in the world to make the great English-speaking Colonies be content to continue to remain beneath her sway.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

Up to latest advices, the Indian Famine Relief Fund in England had reached £325,000 on Feb. 22nd, and in Hongkong $48,201 on March 9th. In Montreal $25,000 (gold) had been subscribed up to the 4th ult., being the largest amount ever raised by public subscription in Canada. In Calcutta over three million rupees have been subscribed.

Reuter's Agency has sent a special correspondent on tour through the districts chiefly afflicted by famine, and his telegraphic reports describe the situation more concisely and vividly than the day-to-day columns of the Indian newspapers. He wires from Bijapur at the end of January as follows:—

Since I despatched my last telegram I have traversed the districts of Belgaum, Dharwar, and Hubi. I found everywhere in those regions a considerable increase in the price of grain, but no actual scarcity. At Dharwar there is a very rich bumper crop of cotton, and picking has begun.

In the month of November somewhat serious disturbances took place at Hubi, the ryots being exasperated by the sudden rise in prices, which took place notwithstanding the fact that there was plenty of grain in the market. The rise was caused by the operation of a ring of banyas, or Hindu traders, who were exporting supplies in large quantities. The people are now quiet, and affairs have resumed their normal aspect, for the railway company, by offering lower rates for the transport of grain and fodder, have quashed the native syndicate. At the present railway rates, a ton of grain can be carried 6,000 miles before the price is doubled.

Bijapur is worse off than any other place in the Bombay Presidency. The country here is sterile, and in the best years is absolutely dependent on the rainfall, which is very poor. The monsoon brought only about an inch, and the subsequent rains did not yield enough for the water supply. There are no irrigation wells or tanks, and I saw no vestige of crops anywhere, the country being perfectly bare. There are no mango groves; only three clumps of acacia and arabica exist, and even these look parched.

In travelling about one is struck by the absence of the usual crowds and attendant bustle at the railway stations. I saw no peasants working in the fields, and, on the other hand, the skeletons of cattle pecked bare by the vultures are a common sight. The mortality among cattle has been enormous, one-tenth of the total number having already perished. Had the Government imported fodder three months ago, the cattle might have been saved. The more well-to-do ryots have only preserved a portion of their stock, and all the poorer classes have lost their cows and buffaloes, the mainstay of their existence. Later on the Government will have to supply funds to make these losses good, and for the same object large drafts will also be made upon the Famine Fund now being raised in England.

People in this city and its environs are digging up roots of *hariali* grass for fodder, the supply of which is almost exhausted. I saw in the bazaar hundreds of lean, starved kine offered for sale, and in the streets one meets carts full of the hides of animals that have perished.

In the Bijapur district there have been many grain dacoities, and over 100 prisoners are now awaiting trial, so that the prison is crowded.

Great distress prevails, and the people are at the lowest ebb. Fifty thousand are now on relief works, and the number will probably be doubled within the next two months. By June the amount of privation will be enormous.

In the bazaar yesterday, I found people in from the country buying small supplies with money they had earned at the relief works. They looked wan and emaciated. Many had come long distances, for bazaars have not yet been established in the camps, and the natives employ their Sunday in coming to town to purchase provisions for the ensuing week.

At the municipal poor-house, which I next visited, I found no peon (warder), and the only inmates present were three old men in a truly deplorable condition, and two women so decrepit that they were unable to move. All the able-bodied paupers, I learned, were out begging in the bazaar, and only returned to the poor-house at meal times and bed-time. There were altogether 36 inmates, and double this number of respectable purdah women were in receipt as outdoor relief. Passing on to another ward, I saw several lepers lying outside on the ground. Among them was a weaver with his wife and child, who were also sick. They looked abjectly miserable. I advised them to go to the hospital, but they declined. The natives here have a great dread of the hospital, believing that if they enter it they will die within a fortnight. It is hard to combat this and other similar popular prejudices.

To-day I drove out to the Torvi relief camp, which is about six miles from the city. I there found gangs of 50 natives working at intervals along the roadside. The greater portion of them are quite destitute. Their clothing was old and scanty, and very few had blankets. The total number employed at the camp is 5,500. The children are sheltered during the daytime in an old mosque. One group of women on the roadside appealed to me to intercede with the officer in charge not to send them further on, but to give them work on the spot. This I did, and some were taken on, the stronger portion being forwarded in gangs. The Romanis, or gipsies, are working in the last stage of poverty, and are very poorly fed.

Before another month all the lower castes will be seeking relief.

Down to the present there have been no deaths from absolute starvation, but the people are just on the verge of it. The greater portion would die but for the relief works. No cases of cholera have occurred so far, but it is believed that an outbreak is sure to come later. The masses of the people are exceedingly careless, and it is impossible to make absolutely efficient sanitary arrangements.

As a result of careful inspection, I am convinced that there is more suffering here than in any other part of the Presidency I have visited, and that there will be terrible pressure, which will tax the utmost resources of the Government, some months hence.

I am proceeding next to Sholapur, where I hear the distress is also acute. The usual rainfall there is about 18in., and it does not yet amount to 5in. A sixteenth part of the *rabi* area has had to be resown, and it is feared that the entire crop will wither. They will have a poor chance unless rain comes within the next few days, and the present prospect is extremely gloomy.

From Jhelam, Reuter's special correspondent telegraphed:—

During the past two days Sir A. S. Lethbridge, member of the Viceregal Council, accompanied by Mr. Thorburn (Commissioner for Rawalpindi), Brigade Surgeon-Colonel Roe (sanitary commissioner for the Punjab), Afdal Khan (Deputy-Commissioner for Gujarat), Kurthi Singh (famine officer), and other officials, have been making an exhaustive inspection of the relief works, by far the largest in the Punjab, on the new Jhelam Irrigation Canal. Forty thousand coolies are here congregated, including 12,000 infirm, aged, and blind persons, who are classed as non-workers. The inspecting officials, comparing the existing arrangements with the famine works of 1877, noted an immense advance in scientific relief, resulting from the labours of the Famine Commission and subsequent researches, Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick, the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Punjab Government having closely adopted all the improved executive and sanitary methods that were recommended.

The starting-point of the canal, which is supplied by the Jhelam River, is at Tapai village, a point seven miles up stream from here. The site of the present works extends over one-and-a-half miles along the alignment of the future canal and in the midst of an extensive sandy plain. It is some two miles distant from the river on the southern side. The last quotation for the cheapest sort of grain was ten seers (about 20lb.) for a rupee, against a normal rate of over 20 seers. The regular traders in the bazaar are furnished with huts by the Government free of cost, but some outsiders have erected similar structures for themselves. There are two hospital tents, one for men and the other for women. These have not yet been used. Trivial cases of sickness are sent to the Mang dispensary, two miles off. A third isolated hospital is being prepared.

The huts inhabited by the coolies are ranged along the sand-covered roadway, which is now over half a mile in length. They are strongly built of mats or thatched grass, and are 30 clear feet apart. Each provides accommodation for about 50 coolies, who are distributed by families.

The canal excavation works present a most interesting spectacle. Viewing them from the top of the highest soil heap we saw 28,600 labourers, all as busy as ants, extending nearly a mile each way. They were divided into 250 gangs, in 50 of which the workers were told off by families. For every man employed in digging, three other persons, generally women, young lads, and girls, or men unaccustomed to manual labour, were occupied in carrying the excavated earth in flat baskets on their heads to the soil heaps. Each gang was supervised by an overseer. Many of these, being headmen of neighbouring villages, act as honorary officials and the remainder are mostly selected coolies. All the coolies receive twice a week, as a *minimum* wage, a subsistance allowance in money calculated on the current price of the cheapest sort of grain. The stronger and better workers, however, receive a higher rate of pay. There are in all four classes, the lower getting the mean subsistance allowance, while each superior class receives one pice per day more than the one immediately below. Under the Punjab system, test works having been early established in all parts of the country, the distressed population has been immediately provided with work. Those employed, on the works here all look healthy, vigorous, and cheerful. Sunday here, as elsewhere, is a holiday, but the subsistence wage is paid all the same.

Finally, we inspected the lines of the helpless non-workers, to nearly 600 of whom gratuitous relief is daily distributed. The men in this section are not allowed to leave their quarters during the greater part of the day, as they would otherwise be apt to receive a second maintenance allowance by impersonating others on the working gangs. Lepers are not permitted to remain in the camp, but are immediately sent home. A *minimum* subsistence allowance is, however, sent to them every four days. All classes here are already familiar with the word *minimum*.

Many babies have already been born at the works. The mothers are then maintained gratuitously for a time, and receive two pice extra for each baby. Young infants who have been deserted or whose mothers are unable to nurse them are fed with prepared Swiss milk by means of feeding-bottles, this duty being undertaken by the medical staff.

Hongkong papers publish the following telegram from the Secretary of the Famine Fund at Calcutta:—

"Warmest thanks for second contribution. No question as to reality of famine. Missionary reporting from Jubbulpore on 15th states that of 981 starving wretches admitted to poorhouse one in seven died from exhaustion notwithstanding every care."

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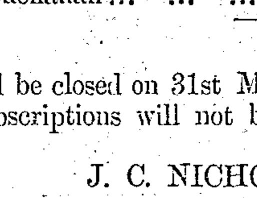
RED  NOSE.

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March 22nd, 1897.

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Export Specialists and Importers,
No. 3001, OHNOHAMA, KOBE.

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NICHI-BEI BOYEKI SHOKWAI—Manufacturers' Agents, Export Specialists, and Importers, are prepared to furnish Quotations, and to fill Indents for any description of Japanese produce or manufactures on reasonable terms. We deal, in all cases, direct with the manufacturer or producer and employ no middlemen. Correspondence solicited.

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No. 3001, OHNOHAMA, KOBE.
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March 22nd, 1897.

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BY
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Tokyo, March 22nd, 1897.

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	YEN.
PARTNERSHIP CAPITAL	5,000,000.000
RESERVE FUND	1,332,881.392
CAPITAL ALLOTTED TO THE DEPARTMENT	1,000,000.000

HEAD OFFICE.
No. 1, Yayesucho Itchome, Kojimachi-ku Tokyo.

BRANCH OFFICES.
OSAKA.—Nishinagahori Minami-dori, Gochome.
KOBE.—Sakayecho-dori, Gochome.

HEAD OFFICE.
INTEREST ALLOWED.

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On Special Current Account	5.52 %
On Fixed Deposit for 12 months	6 %
On Fixed Deposit for 6 months	5½ %
On Fixed Deposit for 3 months	5 %

TOYOKAWA RIOHEY,
Manager Banking Dept.

March 22nd, 1897.

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Additional funds being continually subscribed.

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Telephone No. 279, TOKYO.

Yokohama Branch:
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Telephone No. 389, YOKOHAMA.

Directors:
ZENSHIRO YASUDA, MORIMASA TAKEI, KAHEI OTANI, HIKOKICHI NAKAZAWA, DAIKICHI SAKAINO.

Inspectors:
SABUROBEI OKU, ICHIROEMON KITANI, GEORGE NAKAYAMA.

Legal Adviser:
ZENJIRO YASUDA.

Managers:
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TAMIJIRO MATSUI, Yokohama.

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(3) Contract to erect Buildings and to prepare Plans and Designs, &c.
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March 22nd, 1897.

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PRICES MODERATE.

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BRANCH: MOJI, BUZEN.

March 22nd, 1897.

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SPECIALTY:
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March 22nd, 1897.

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MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.—Progress of Telegraphy in Japan—Sanskrit Course in the Imperial University—Indian Famine Relief Fund—An Appeal to Buddhists—Light after Darkness—Societies relating to Japanese Archæology—Prof. LAUMAN and his Oriental Studies (a letter from Dr. J. TAKAKUSU)—List of the 18 famous *daishi*—"*Gidô Tetsugaku*"—Announcement of a New Daily paper in English, and many more.

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YOKOHAMA BRANCH:
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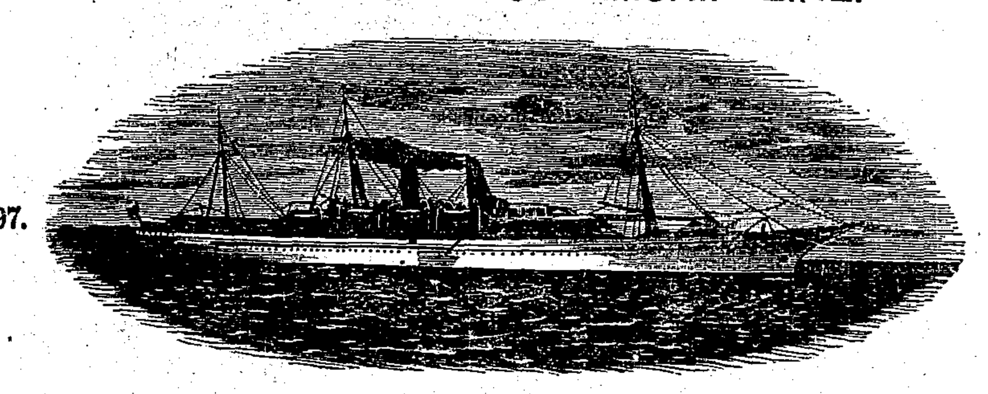
1897.  1897.

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		SHANGHAI LINE.	
Kobe Maru	SWAIN	Shanghai, *via* Kobe, Shimonoseki, and Nagasaki	23rd March, Y'hama.
		YOKKAICHI LINE.	
Tsuruga Maru	M. FUKUI	Handa, Yokkaichi	26th March, Y'hama.
Takasago Maru	DE LA LAND	Tsu, Yokkaichi	24th March, Y'hama.
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Konoura Maru	K. ITO	Kobe	25th March, Y'hama.
Ikai Maru	T. SAKAI	Otaru, *via* Oginohama and Hakodate	24th March, Y'hama.
		BONIN ISLANDS LINE.	
Suminoye Maru	S. TSUJI	Bonin Islands	25th April, Y'hama.
		TIENTSIN LINE (4-*Weekly*).	
Genkai Maru	M. MATSUMOTO.	Tientsin, *via* Shimonoseki, Nagasaki, Fusan, Jinsen, and Chefoo.	8th April, Kobe.
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Sagami Maru	N. ONO	Keelung, *via* Ujina, Moji, and Nagasaki	23rd March, Kobe.
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